

Regular Session, November 17, 2011, 7:00 p.m.
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

Appointments

Newton Planning and Zoning Board	397	11/17/11
Town of Catawba Planning Board	397	11/17/11
Alcohol Beverage Control Board	397	11/17/11

Awards

Certificate of Commendation – Newton-Conover Lady Red Devils Volleyball Team	397	11/17/11
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Board of Commissioners

Adopting 2012 Meeting Schedule	401	11/17/11
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Finance

Bond Ratings	400	11/17/11
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Information Technology

Transfer of 911 Fund balance to 911 Operating budget – CAD Software	400	11/17/11
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Public Comments for Items Not on the Agenda

Andy Wells	397	11/17/11
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PM2.5

Attainment	401	11/17/11
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Resolution

Adopting 2012 Meeting Schedule	401	11/17/11
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Social Services

Amend Agreement with MHP – transfer of adult wards to Social Services	397	11/17/11
Amended Work First Electing Plan for 2012-14	398	11/17/11
Catawba County Aging Plan	399	11/17/11

The Catawba County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, November 17, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Robert E. Hibbitts Meeting Room of the 1924 Courthouse, 30 North College Avenue, Newton, North Carolina.

Present were Chair Katherine W. Barnes, and Commissioners Dan A. Hunsucker, Barbara G. Beatty and Randy Isenhower.

Vice-Chair Lynn Lail was absent.

Also present were County Manager J. Thomas Lundy, Assistant County Manager Dewey Harris, County Attorney Debra Bechtel, Deputy County Attorney Anne Marie Pease and County Clerk Barbara Morris.

1. Chair Katherine W. Barnes called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Chair Barnes led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
3. Commissioner Randy Isenhower offered the invocation.
4. Commissioner Barbara Beatty made a motion to approve the minutes from the Special Meeting with the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Advocacy Team of November 3, 2011 and the Board's Regular Meeting and Closed Session of November 7, 2011. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Recognition of Special Guests: Chair Barnes welcomed everyone present, recognizing members of the Catawba County Youth Council and those present to receive a Commendation.
6. Public Comments for Items Not on the Agenda:
Mr. Andy Wells of Prism Development in Hickory addressed the Board about the loss of jobs in the last decade and his belief that current rules and regulations pertaining to building inspections were inhibiting business growth and home buying. Chair Barnes stated the specific issues he raised would be reviewed and assured Mr. Wells that the Board's priority is to support business, as reflected in the Board's Goals adopted at a previous meeting.
7. Presentations:
All the Commissioners joined Chair Barnes at the podium to present a Certificate of Commendation to the Newton-Conover Lady Red Devils Volleyball Team in recognition of their winning the State 2A Championship. The Board commended the spirit, motivation and teamwork which brought Newton-Conover High School its first volleyball championship.
8. Appointments:
Commissioner Isenhower recommended the appointment of Melinda Travis for a first term to fill a vacant ETJ position on the Newton Planning and Zoning Board. Ms. Travis' term will expire November 30, 2014.

Commissioner Beatty recommended the reappointment of Trent Cloninger for a sixth term on the Town of Catawba Planning Board. Mr. Cloninger's term will expire November 30, 2011.

Chair Barnes recommended the reappointment of Vernon Tarlton for a second term on the Alcohol Beverage Control Board. This term will expire October 5, 2014.

These recommendations came in the form of a motion. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Departmental Reports:
 - A. Social Services
 1. Social Services Director John Eller presented a request for the Board to amend the County's Agreement with Mental Health Partners (MHP) to allow the transfer of adult wards to Catawba County Social Services. Guardianship services are provided to individuals who are found to be incompetent by the Clerk of Court, the Social Services Director or Local Management Entity (LME). Under North Carolina General Statute 35A, directors are appointed to serve as public agent guardians when no one else is available and willing. Services include assessing an individual's need for guardianship; locating the appropriate person(s) to serve as guardian(s); and, when necessary, petitioning or assisting the individual's family to petition for a judgment of incompetence.

Social Services currently serves as guardian for adults with physical/geriatric ailments, while MHP has served those with a primary diagnosis of mental illness. As a result of the Center for Medicaid Services 1915b/c expansion, local LMEs will no longer be appointed as public agent guardians. Therefore, MHP is required to transition wards to Social Services. To avoid this becoming an unfunded mandate, MHP has agreed to a budget transfer to Social Services for this effort. MHP currently receives \$116,165 in County funding to provide guardianship services. Because this process is being conducted mid-year, the amount transferred will be pro-rated. In January, MHP will transfer \$60,332 to Social Services to fund positions through June. Effective July 1, 2012, Social Services will receive \$120,665 annually. County management will assess this amount annually to ensure sufficient funding and negotiate with the new Managed Care Organization accordingly. These dollars will be used to add social work positions to provide case management for additional wards, which includes making decisions about where the individual will live; authorizing medical treatment; managing the individual's finances; and filing status reports and accountings with the Clerk of Court and the North Carolina Division of Aging and Adult Services.

MHP and Social Services have met with the Clerk of Court and staff to ensure a smooth transition. Social Services will post positions to cover this expansion in November, interview in December, and hire in January 2012 to ensure that the new staff will be properly trained and ready to serve in their new capacity. This will align with the first phase of transition, resulting in approximately 50 wards being transferred from MHP to Social Services in January 2012. The second phase will take place between February and March 2012, resulting in the remaining wards (approximately 30) being transferred.

Commissioner Isenhower clarified that Social Services would be guardian of the person, not a general guardian. Commissioner Dan Hunsucker made a motion to approve this amendment to the agreement with Mental Health Partners. The motion carried unanimously.

2. (Note: this item was added to the agenda.) Social Services Director John Eller and Karen Heffner, Social Worker Supervisor III, presented a request for the Board to approve the Catawba County Work First Electing Plan for 2012-2014 **with revisions required by the State of North Carolina**. In 1996, Congress ended the national welfare program known as AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) and crafted legislation to allow states to implement their own welfare programs. This federal devolution of authority enabled the North Carolina General Assembly to go even further with welfare reform and the legislature allows counties to compete for Electing County status, in essence offering a limited number of counties the opportunity to have greater control over local welfare policies, as well as greater control over available funding.

On July 11, 2011, the Board voted to pursue "Electing County" status and appointed a committee to assist in the development of the county's Work First Plan. On September 6, 2011, the Board approved the Catawba County Electing Plan and it was submitted to the state.

On November 16, 2011, Catawba County's Social Service Director John Eller received a letter from the state regarding revisions needed to the Work First Electing Plan. The revisions were as follows:

- a. The plan stated on page 17 "EA will not be used to assist customers who live in Public Housing." This policy targets a specific population and can be viewed as discriminatory. This was removed from the plan.
- b. The plan indicated on page 24 expanded definitions of kinship as eligibility criteria. Federal Regulations allows states to define kinship. Kinship is defined by the State of North Carolina. The Division does not support expanding the definition of kinship at this time. This was removed from the plan.
- c. The plan stated on page 25 "the 60 month time limit will apply to the child only cases where the parent is not included in the grant due to being undocumented." The Division is researching this policy for future consideration. However, at this time, the Division is not approving counties to implement policy that place a lifetime limit on child only cases. This was removed from the plan.
- d. The plan indicated on page 26 that job quit penalty would apply to child only cases. The plan was clarified to which child only cases are subject to the job quit penalty and how these cases will be tracked.
- e. Catawba County requested implementation of drug-testing policy for its Work First Program. The letter to Eller stated, "Guidance from the North Carolina Attorney General's Office determines drug testing to be vulnerable to a constitutional challenge. This is because the U.S. Supreme Court considers suspicion less drug testing to be a search and seizure and an invasion of individual privacy. Based on this guidance, it is the Division's decision at this time not to approve the implementation of drug testing for the Work First Program." This was removed from the plan. After discussions initiated by Commissioner Isenhower regarding the removal of this requirement from the plan, it was agreed that the County will request the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners pursue this requirement through its legislative staff. Commissioner Hunsucker made a motion to approve the amended plan. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Social Services Director John Eller and President of Abingdon Senior Housing Services Shuford Abernethy presented the Board with the recommended Catawba County Aging Plan, which includes objectives, recommendations and strategies. The Catawba County Aging Leadership Planning team was formed in July 2009 to provide leadership in a collaborative planning process that promotes a livable and senior-friendly community for Catawba County. The primary purpose in planning was to determine Catawba County's "aging readiness" to provide programs, policies and services that meet the needs of a growing older population, families and caregivers.

Tami Hefner, Adult Services Program Manager with Social Services and Sheila Weeks, Area Agency on Aging Director with the Western Piedmont Council of Governments, served as team leaders of the project. In addition, 114 county residents representing 35 agencies and organizations joined in the planning effort.

The project was divided into two phases with each phase lasting approximately one year. Four components were reviewed during each phase. At the conclusion of this planning effort, specific objectives, recommendations and responsible parties were developed for each of eight components. The eight components of a livable and senior friendly community include: healthy aging; access and choice in services and supports; safety and security; public accountability and responsiveness; technology; physical and accessible environment; social and cultural opportunity; and economic security.

Key areas/issues identified include:

- Creation of an Aging Coalition to promote the general well being of older adults and their caregivers and advise the community and elected officials concerning aging issues.
- Establishment of a local Program of All Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE @ Home).
- Planning and preparedness for disasters and emergencies with special attention to older adults at greatest risk.
- Stressing of the importance of addressing the needs of older adults when assisting and responding to emergency calls.
- Prevention of abuse, neglect, fraud and exploitation of older adults.
- Increase awareness of the importance of maintaining and improving dental health for older adults and residents of long term care facilities by identifying resources for direct dental care and dental health information.
- Identify existing public transportation resources in the Unifour area, cite planned future networks, and prioritize needs for expansion and identification of senior driving safety issues with emphasis on the Unifour area.
- Determine whether local government land use plans and regulations promote healthy aging, adequately accommodate the myriad needs of an aging population and provide a framework for local governments to adjust each as necessary to achieve the desired outcome of a livable and senior-friendly county.
- Develop neighborhood organizations in Catawba County (municipal and county) and enhance current neighborhood organizations, providing opportunities for older adults.
- Expand communications about opportunities to volunteer, learn and contribute in the community and build an infrastructure to enable older adults to make meaningful voluntary

contributions.

- Identify and encourage a wide range of lifelong learning opportunities.
- Provide information to older adults and families regarding financial and income planning.
- Promote public awareness about the technological and “telehealth” resources available for older adults and caregivers in the specified areas.
- Promote the use of the 211 phone line by older adults to find help or a community service.

The next steps in this effort are the creation of an Aging Coalition, development of a timeline for implementation, and involvement of responsible parties and community partners in the implementation.

Chair Barnes recognized both Michelle Roseman and Mark Bumgarner who were instrumental in this process and were present in the audience. Commissioner Isenhower made a motion to accept the plan.

B. Information Technology

Chief Information Officer Terry Bledsoe presented a request for the Board to approve the transfer of \$47,000 from the 911 fund balance to the 911 operating budget to update and enhance Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) software. The County uses VisionAIR CAD for dispatch services in the 911 Center and a number of other VisionAIR products for record keeping, jail management and mobile operations of law enforcement and EMS. When a call comes in from a specific address and incident, the system has the capability to suggest the proper unit to dispatch. With new Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) software and tracking added in the past three years, a CAD system can now also suggest the unit(s) closest to an incident. Both of these features require that the CAD database be set up and maintained with block by block unit data for the entire county. When the County's software was installed in the late 1990s, a decision was made not to set up the database in this manner. While this decision reduced the cost significantly at that time, it now prevents the County from using features afforded by the AVL software.

The 911 Center's CAD software is scheduled to be updated in January. Adding this module during this upgrade will lessen the amount of disruption to the 911 Center. It will reduce manual entry of unit and block data, increase accuracy for units dispatched, and reduce response time for closest units, as opposed to base dispatch. The data required to use this feature in VisionAIR CAD can be generated from the County's current files and updated on the same schedule as other maps.

The cost of the software is \$43,579. First year maintenance is included in the price. Maintenance after the first year would be \$7,750. The upgrade to the current CAD system is \$3,000. \$421 has been included for contingency. Commissioner Hunsucker made a motion to approve this budget transfer. The motion carried unanimously. The following appropriations apply:

Budget Revision:

202-280100-690100	911 Fund Balance	\$47,000
202-280100-982000	911 Operating Budget	\$47,000

10. Other Items of Business:

a. At the request of Chair Barnes, County Manager J. Thomas Lundy reported that bond rating agencies Standard & Poor's and Moody's both affirmed the County's AA rating (S&P, AA-/Moody's, Aa2) for the refunding bonds the County sold this week. The reports referenced good things regarding the County's financial position, and its reaction to the economic recession, low debt ratios and economic development efforts. The bonds were sold on November 15, 2011, and the County enjoyed a strong reception in the market due to its strong credit. Because of this, a Net Present

Value savings of 4.95% or \$2,446,941 was achieved, which equals to savings for the County of about \$330,000 next year.

b. Chair Barnes announced that the United States Environmental Planning Agency (USEPA) has announced that Catawba County will be classified as being in "attainment" for Particulate Matter 2.5 (PM 2.5) on December 19, 2011. Catawba County was officially declared in nonattainment for PM 2.5 on January 5, 2005. PM 2.5 refers to tiny particles of droplets in the air that can adversely affect human health.

c. County Manager J. Thomas Lundy presented a request for the Board to adopt a resolution setting its meeting schedule for 2012. Historically, only one meeting is held in the month of January due to the holidays affecting subcommittee schedules. This will be an evening meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2012, on a Tuesday because the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday is on Monday, January 16.

March is also a month which historically has only one meeting, due to a conflict with the National Association of Counties (NACo) Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C, scheduled for March 3-7, 2012, where county officials hear presentations by key national leaders, receive legislative updates, discuss legislative priorities, network with other county officials and exchange information. Members of the Board and County Management staff are members of NACo Steering Committees which also meet at this time. The March meeting will be the evening of Monday, March 19, 2012.

Budget Hearings with departments are scheduled for Tuesday, May 29, 2012, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with a public hearing and wrap-up on Thursday, May 31, 2012, and budget adoption on Monday, June 4, 2012.

July is a month which historically has only one meeting due to the Fourth of July holiday. The July meeting will be an evening meeting on Monday, July 9, 2012, on the second Monday of the month rather than the third Monday due to the NACo Annual Conference scheduled for July 13-17, 2012, which includes the third Monday of July. There would be no subcommittee meetings preceding the July 9, 2012 meeting, as they would fall during the Fourth of July holiday week.

The changes to the to the Board's 2012 meeting schedule are: cancellation of the Monday, January 3, 2012 meeting and accompanying subcommittee meetings; cancellation of the Monday, March 5, 2012 meeting and accompanying subcommittee meetings; scheduling of budget hearings with departments for Tuesday, May 29, 2012 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with a public hearing and budget wrap-up on Thursday, May 31, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. and budget adoption at the regularly scheduled meeting of Monday, June 4, 2012; cancellation of the Monday, July 2, 2012 meeting and accompanying subcommittee meetings and scheduling of the July evening meeting on the second Monday, July 9, 2012, due to the NACo Annual Conference. In addition, the schedule would cancel the accompanying subcommittee meeting preceding the July 9, 2012 regular Board meeting, as subcommittee meetings would fall during the Fourth of July holiday week, and schedule the annual breakfast meeting with the staff of the Cooperative Extension Service at the Agricultural Resource Center on Monday, December 3, 2012 from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m.

Commissioner Beatty made a motion to adopt the meeting schedule resolution. The motion carried unanimously. The following resolution applies:

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-
ADOPTING 2012 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING SCHEDULE

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 2-47 of the Catawba County Code, the regular meetings of the Catawba County Board of Commissioners shall be held as provided in a resolution adopted by the Board in a regularly scheduled meeting held not less than ten days prior to the first meeting to which the resolution is to apply. The Board will observe the holiday honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by meeting on the Tuesday following such holiday.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Catawba County Board of Commissioners adopts the following Meeting Schedule for 2012:

January 17 – Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.
February 6 – Monday, 9:30 a.m.
February 20 – Monday, 7:00 p.m.
March 19 – Monday, 7:00 p.m.
April 1 – Monday, 9:30 a.m.
April 16 – Monday, 7:00 p.m.
May 7 – Monday, 9:30 a.m.
May 21 – Monday, 7:00 p.m.
May 29 – Tuesday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Budget Hearings with Departments
May 31 – Thursday, 7:00 p.m. Budget Public Hearing and Wrap-Up
June 4 – Monday, 9:30 a.m. – Budget Adoption
June 18 – Monday, 7:00 p.m.
July 9 – Monday, 7:00 p.m.
August 6 – Monday, 9:30 a.m.
August 20 – Monday, 7:00 p.m.
September 4 – Tuesday, 9:30 a.m.
September 17 – Monday, 7:00 p.m.
October 1 – Monday, 9:30 a.m.
October 15 – Monday, 7:00 p.m.
November 5 – Monday, 9:30 a.m.
November 19 – Monday, 7:00 p.m.
December 3 – Monday, 8:00-9:00 annual breakfast w/CES – Regular meeting 9:30 a.m.
December 17 – Monday, 7:00 p.m.

This the _____ day of November, 2011.

11. Attorney's Report: None.
12. Manager's Report: None.
13. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Katherine W. Barnes, Chair
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

Barbara E. Morris
County Clerk